

OKINAWA MARINE

JANUARY 11, 2013

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Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr. addresses Marines, sailors and civilians Oct. 25 at Camp Courtney. The commanding general provided guidance to his command Jan. 4, explaining his expectations for 2013. The guidance reinforces the importance of each Marine and sailor understanding their commander's intent, and charged each service member with seizing the initiative and maintaining accountability for their actions in 2013. Glueck is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Jose D. Lujano

General provides guidance for 2013

Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP BUTLER — Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force, provided guidance to his command Jan. 4 that explained his intent and vision for III MEF during 2013.

The commanding general's message reinforced and expanded upon guidance provided in 2011 and 2012, and praised the performance of his command during the past two years.

"The MEF has excelled in meeting my operational intent; being the most ready force in United States Pacific Command," said

Glueck. "We have proven time and again to be the force of choice; responding to today's crisis, with today's force, today."

III MEF's involvement in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations around the Asia-Pacific region in 2012, highlighted by flood relief efforts in the Republic of the Philippines,

demonstrated the necessity of an expeditionary force in readiness in the region, reinforcing the need for continual preparation and training by III MEF's subordinate commands.

"As we start the new year, we must be prepared for the unexpected," said Glueck. "We will be

see **GUIDANCE** pg 3

III MEF Band band of year

Lance Cpl. Pete Sanders

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band was selected as the Marine Corps band of the year Dec. 18 by a panel of Headquarters Marine Corps judges.

Bands from all over the Marine Corps compete for the prestigious award, which is given out annually.

"We're all very proud of what we accomplished," said Lance Cpl. David V. Kelley, a bandsman with the III

MEF band. "We're very happy with the work we put in and the results that have come from it. It is an honor to receive this award."

The band put in long hours and late nights to become the best they could be, added Kelley.

The recognition the band received can be tied to its work ethic and pride in what it does.

"We train hard, practice hard, and do the best we can," said Staff Sgt. Austin R. Moore, training staff

see **BAND** pg 5

CMC orders wear of service uniforms weekly

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Gen. James F. Amos, the 35th commandant of the United States Marine Corps, has directed that service uniforms will be worn as the uniform of the day on Fridays starting Jan. 4.

All Marines and sailors attached to Marine units, both active-duty and reserve, are required to wear the proper seasonal service uniform unless otherwise directed by their

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**IN THIS
ISSUE**

SEQUESTRATION

Secretary of Defense explains potential sequestration for 2013.

PG. 4

1/3 TRAINS FOR JUNGLE WARFARE

The battalion makes its first visit to the Jungle Warfare Training Center under the unit deployment program.

PGS. 6-7

ALL-STAR MARINE

Marine chosen for the all-Marine men's basketball team and the all-armed forces basketball team.

PG. 10

Set a goal, make a plan

Resources available to gain financial health, wellness

Joe Cassidy

When service members of different generations get together, the discussions occasionally gravitate toward “how easy” or “how hard” the military lifestyle and military service was for each generation. As a retired military service member, I feel current service members have it much better, especially regarding support and services to assist them in ways to more effectively manage their money.

When I first enlisted in the Navy in 1972, personal finance education and training were virtually non-existent for service members and their families. These services would have been very beneficial for me as it took me until I was 45 years old to realize the importance of financial security and stability. Because of my ignorance and lack of money management skills, I cost myself and my family over 25 years of compounded interest on investments and retirement savings. Since coming to this realization, I have worked very hard to significantly increase my financial health and wellness, but it is very difficult to overcome 25 years of lost interest!

Service members and their families now have a significant advantage over previous generations. There are so many more resources available today to assist service members and their families in effectively managing their finances and planning for the future.

These resources include a significant emphasis on personal finance training in

the military training track, starting during basic training, and continuing throughout a military career. Certified personal financial management specialists also provide in-depth financial education, training and counseling at family centers to increase financial literacy and assist service members and their families in becoming financially fit.

Service members and their families also have access to a wide variety of trusted internet resources specifically geared for service members. Thrift Savings Plan, Military OneSource, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau Office of Service Member Affairs, Federal Trade Commission and Military Saves are a few internet sources that are available to assist military service members and their families on their personal finances.

Finally, Marine Corps Community Services Marine & Family Programs-Resources has a wide variety of classes and workshops every month on Marine Corps camps on Okinawa to include: money management, TSP, basic investing, credit reports, home-buying and retirement/estate planning.

For more information on these and other personal finance workshops, please contact the closest MCCS Marine & Family Programs-Resources facility or visit the Marine & Family webpage. The new year is a time for resolutions and starting over, I ask everyone, especially young Marines, sailors and their families, to make a resolution to increase their financial fitness and wealth this year. Don't repeat my mistake of waiting until later in life to start planning and

Trusted Internet resources available to help service members gain financial health:

- **Thrift Savings Plan** (www.tsp.gov) provides an additional retirement investment vehicle for military service members to enhance their retirement savings and investment planning.
- **Military OneSource** (www.militaryonesource.com) provides information and resources for a wide variety of personal finance topics.
- **Consumer Finance Protection Bureau Service Member Affairs** (www.consumerfinance.gov/service-members) provides protection and advocacy for service members regarding consumer awareness issues.
- **Federal Trade Commission** (www.ftc.gov) provides links for free credit reports.
- **Military Saves** (www.militarysaves.org) encourages the military community to meet immediate needs and build long-term wealth through saving and debt reduction.

saving for retirement. The Military Saves 2013 theme says it all: “Set a Goal, Make a Plan, Save Automatically!”

Cassidy is the Family Programs & Resources Manager, MCCS Marine & Family Programs.

AROUND THE CORPS



A drill instructor from Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego instructs the players of the Semper Fidelis All-American Bowl East-Coast Team on what he expects from them during the players' first practice Dec. 31 at Fullerton College in Fullerton, Calif. Photo by Cpl. Gabby Bustos

Col. Michael J. Colburn conducts the band during the traditional New Year's Day serenade in the garden of the commandant's home at Marine Barracks Washington Jan. 1. Colburn is the U.S. Marine Band director. Photo by Cpl. Mondo Lescaud



OKINAWA MARINE

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CENTRAL BUREAU

Camp Foster

DSN 645-9335

NORTHERN BUREAU

Camp Hansen

DSN 623-7229

SOUTHERN BUREAU

Camp Kinser

DSN 637-1092



Members of the Shizuoka prefecture, Japan Self-Defense Force and Marines load supplies into a Humvee at the Shizuoka airport Sept. 2 during the Shizuoka disaster drill. The interoperability training between the JSDF and Marines is an example of III MEF's focus on realistic training and better integration with its coalition partners, as laid out in the guidance of Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

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tested, and not at the time and place of our choosing."

The introduction of the MV-22B Osprey to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing will help III MEF respond to these tests by increasing operational flexibility and improving response times to crises and natural disasters in the region, according to Glueck. The Osprey has approximately four times the operational range and twice the speed of the CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter it is replacing.

The operational capabilities of III MEF have also been bolstered by the re-institution of the unit deployment program, including the reintroduction of multiple infantry battalions to the island for the first time in several years,

according to Glueck.

The commanding general called on his Marines to re-dedicate themselves to realistic training, building interoperability with partner nations, and improving command and control in order to fully realize the benefits of III MEF's increased capabilities.

Efficiency will also be a focus of the new year, with Glueck asking his Marines to maximize their effectiveness with available resources and, as necessary, adapt to overcome any challenges that would impede mission accomplishment.

One challenge III MEF must address in the coming year is the very small percentage of Marines who fail to meet the standards, unduly altering the perception of the

U.S. military among parts of our host nation's populace, according to Glueck.

"The vast majority of Marines and sailors continue to conduct themselves as upstanding members of the Okinawa community," said Glueck. "It falls upon every member of III MEF to maintain their focus and leadership on maintaining zero-tolerance for liberty incidents."

Glueck concluded his guidance by reinforcing the importance of each Marine and sailor understanding their commander's intent, a principal that the general had stressed in guidance from previous years. He charged each service member with seizing the initiative and maintaining accountability for their actions in 2013.



Marines load a KC-130J Hercules aircraft at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma bound for the Republic of the Philippines Dec. 8 to assist in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts in the wake of Typhoon Bopha. The typhoon relief efforts exemplify how III Marine Expeditionary Force is the "most ready force in the U.S. Forces Pacific Command," according to Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr., who added, "We have proven time and again to be the force of choice; responding to today's crisis, with today's force, today," Glueck is the commanding general of III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Manning

"As we start the new year, we must be prepared for the unexpected. We will be tested, and not at the time and place of our choosing."

Lt. Gen. Kenneth J. Glueck Jr.

III MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE COMMANDING GENERAL'S GUIDANCE



2013 Guidance

Over the past two years, the MEF has excelled in meeting my operational intent; being the most ready force in PACOM. We have proven time and again to be the force of choice; responding to today's crisis, with today's force, TODAY.

As we start a new year, we must be prepared for the unexpected. As our Corps' only permanently forward stationed and deployed MAGTF, we will be tested, and not at the time and place of our choosing.

With the commandant's assistance, we have re-instituted the unit deployment program and have improved our operational agility with the introduction of the MV-22 Osprey. The introduction of these new capabilities will require a renewed focus on dedicated and realistic training, better integration with our coalition partners, and improved command and control.

Operationally, we will be required to do more with less, which means we need to be more effective and efficient with our resources. There will be a continued negative media focus on off base incidents; I need every Marine and sailor to maintain their focus and leadership on ensuring 'zero tolerance.'

While 99.9% of you are doing the right things, we are being judged by the very small percentage who fail to meet the standard. I continue to charge each of you to understand your commander's intent, seize the initiative, and be accountable for your actions.

Below are my specific priorities for 2013:

1. Prepare to fight tonight in defense of our strategic alliance partners – Korea, Japan, Philippines, Thailand and Australia
2. Rapidly respond to crisis and natural disasters; special focus on Nepal
3. Build and improve our partner nations' capabilities and our interoperability; make them more effective
4. Reconstitute III MEF UDP and rotational forces; Okinawa, Guam and Australia
5. Ensure safe and professional mission planning and execution.
6. Protect the force against suicide, sexual assault, alcohol abuse and hazing
7. Refocus our core values to "true north," nothing less is acceptable

**III MEF and MCIPAC -
One Team and One Mission**

BRIEFS

TRAFFIC JAM WARNING

Traffic lanes on each side of the area around the Yakadaichi Elevated Bridge between Yaka 1C and Kin 1C on the Okinawa Expressway will be reduced from two lanes to one, and two-way traffic will be introduced. Traffic may be delayed during bridge construction which is scheduled to be completed March 7.

For more information, visit <http://www.navi-corn.com/refresh/yaka/> or try the free-dial number at 0120-924863.

HMST AND HSST VISIT OKINAWA COMMANDS JANUARY 14-18

Headquarters Marine Corps' Marine Special Operations Command and Special Duty Assignment Screening Teams will be visiting Okinawa commands Jan. 14-18. Their briefing schedules are as follows:

Recruiting, drill instructor, Marine combat instructor, security guard and Marine Corps security force briefs and screenings for enlisted:

- Jan. 14 at 8 a.m. at the Camp Schwab Theater
- Jan. 15 at 8 a.m. at Camp Hansen, The Palms
- Jan. 16 at 8:15 a.m. at the Camp Foster Theater
- Jan. 17 at 8 a.m. at the Camp Kinser Theater

MARSOC briefs and screenings for officers and enlisted:

- Jan. 14 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Camp Schwab Theater
- Jan. 15 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at Camp Hansen, The Palms
- Jan. 16 at 9 and 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Camp Foster Theater
- Jan. 17 at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. at the Camp Kinser Theater

SNCO brief:

- Jan. 16 at 8 a.m. at the Camp Foster Theater

Contact your respective career planner for more information.

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

The Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation is accepting applications from children of Marines or Navy Corpsmen for the 2013-14 academic year. Scholarships can be used to attend an accredited undergraduate college or vocational/technical institution. Additional eligibility criteria must be met.

Information and applications are available online at www.mcsf.org/ apply. The deadline for applications is March 1 and recipients will be announced in May.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil, or fax your request to 645-3803. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Friday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Panetta seeks end to sequestration

Army Sgt. 1st Class
Tyrone C. Marshall Jr.

AMERICAN FORCES PRESS SERVICE

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Leon E. Panetta expressed his gratitude to U.S. lawmakers for delaying sequestration and voiced optimism for finding a permanent way to avoid an additional \$500 billion in budget cuts.

"On behalf of the Department of Defense, I want to express our thanks to the Democratic and Republican members of Congress who voted to temporarily avert sequestration," said Panetta. "Hopefully, this will allow additional time to develop a balanced deficit reduction plan that would permanently prevent these arbitrary cuts."

Congress passed legislation Jan. 1 delaying the sequestration process by two months. Sequestration, included in the 2011 Budget Control Act, would have automatically cut \$500 billion from defense spending over 10 years on top of \$487 billion in spending reductions already identified over the same timeframe.

Had Congress not acted, the Defense Department, along with other federal agencies, would

have been forced to take dramatic steps which would have "severely impacted" civilian personnel and disrupted DOD's mission, said Panetta.

"For more than a year, I have made clear that sequestration would have a devastating impact on the department," he said. "Over the past few weeks, as we were forced to begin preparing to implement this law, my concerns about its damaging effects have only grown."

"As an example, had Congress failed to act, I would have been required to send out a notice to our 800,000 civilian employees that they could be subject to furlough," added Panetta.

The defense secretary credited Congress with preventing the "worst possible outcome" by delaying sequestration for two months, but noted the threat of sequestration continues.

"Unfortunately, the cloud of sequestration remains," said Panetta. "The responsibility now is to eliminate it as a threat by enacting balanced deficit reduction. Congress cannot continue to just kick the can down the road."

The Defense Department is helping address these budget concerns by working to implement \$487 billion in spending

reductions in accordance with its new defense strategy, said Panetta.

"The specter of sequestration has cast a shadow over our efforts," he said. "We need to have stability in our future budgets. We need to have the resources to effectively execute our strategy, defend the nation, and meet our commitments to troops and their families after more than a decade of war."

The defense secretary lauded the DOD workforce for its service and sacrifice. He said federal government leaders and members of Congress have a "responsibility" to provide the necessary support for them to accomplish their missions.

"Every day, the men and women of this department put their lives on the line to protect us all here at home. Those of us in Washington have no greater responsibility than to give them what they need to succeed and to come home safely," said Panetta.

"My hope is that in the next two months, all of us in the leadership of the nation and the Congress can work together to provide that stability and to prevent sequestration once and for all," he said. "Our national security demands no less."



Photo illustration by Pfc. Michael P. Granahan

Fiscal cliff legislation means changes to military, civilian paychecks this month

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON — The legislation that President Barack Obama signed Jan. 2 that postponed the fiscal cliff means changes to military and civilian paychecks, according to Defense Finance and Accounting Service officials.

The legislation increases Social Security withholding taxes to 6.2 percent. For the past two years the rate was 4.2 percent.

The increase in Social Security withholding taxes affects both military and civilian paychecks, officials said.

For civilian employees, officials said this will mean a 2 percent reduction in net pay.

For military personnel, changes to net pay are affected by a variety of additional factors such as increases in basic allowances for housing,

subsistence, longevity basic pay raises and promotions. Service members could see an increase in net pay, no change or a decrease, according to military personnel and readiness officials.

For military members, Social Security withholding is located on their leave and earnings statement in the blocks marked "FICA taxes" — for Federal Insurance Contributions Act.

DOD civilians will see the change on their leave and earnings statement under "OASDI" — for old age, survivors, and disability insurance.

Reserve component members will be the first to see potential changes in their net pay as a result of the law, DFAS officials said. Changes will be reflected in their January paychecks.

Active-duty military personnel will see pay adjustments in their January mid-month paychecks.



Major Gen. Christopher S. Owens, left, presents the 2011 Chief of Naval Aviation Operations Safety Award to Lt. Col. Aaron S. Wells during a ceremony at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Jan. 3. "This safety award is a significant accomplishment. To have over 65,000 flight hours without a Class-A mishap is no easy feat, but you all did your job superbly," said Owens while addressing the unit. The recipient of the award is determined by evaluating the number of aircraft flight mishaps, relevance of unit safety programs, flight exposure and amount of deployment time. Owens is the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Wells is the commanding officer of Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 262 (Reinforced), which is currently serving as the aviation combat element with 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Codey Underwood

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noncommissioned officer in charge and saxophone section leader. "If you always do your best, everything else will fall into place."

Earning an award as competitive as Band of the Year takes more than natural talent; it takes a well-rounded group of Marines.

Judges consider characteristics such as the band's training records, fitness scores, martial arts training, and recorded and live performances, according to Chief Warrant Officer Stephen B. Giove, the band officer in charge.

The band has also been heavily involved

in the local and regional community. It has performed in several countries in the region, including the Republic of Korea, the Kingdom of Thailand and Guam.

"The band's motto is friendship through music," said Giove. "That is what we do."

After a brief period of rest during holiday leave, the band is back to work in preparation for another season packed with performances all over the region.

"The challenge is to be as good or better than the band of the year," said Giove. "There is no finish line."



The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band was selected as the Marine Corps band of the year Dec. 18 by a panel of Headquarters Marine Corps judges. "We are all very proud of what we accomplished. We are very happy with the work we put in and the results that have come from it," said Lance Cpl. David V. Kelley, a bandsman with the III MEF band. "It is an honor to receive this award." Judges consider characteristics such as the band's training records, fitness scores, martial arts training, and recorded and live performances. Courtesy photo

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commander on a case-by-case basis.

The service "B" uniform will be worn between the months of November and March. The service "C" uniform will be worn during daylight savings; however, the service "C" uniform will be worn year-round in Okinawa and Hawaii.

"We will be wearing the service "C" uniform all year because of the climate in Okinawa and Hawaii," said Sgt. Maj. Patrick L. Kimble, the sergeant major of Marine Corps Base Camp Butler and Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "All other units will wear the proper seasonal service uniform as directed by the commandant of the Marine Corps."

The wearing of service uniforms is designed to ensure Marines are adhering to uniform regulations as put forward in Marine Corps Order P1020.34G and also provides leaders a way to inspect their Marines for proper military appearance, grooming and weight standards.

"Leaders will be able to see that their Marines understand and follow their uniform regulations and correct any discrepancies the Marines have with their uniforms," said Kimble. "It is a great way to take us back to the basics of attention to detail and self discipline."

The utility uniforms have been worn more frequently, and the new policy will give the Marines a chance to maintain proficiency in all uniform regulations, according to 1st Lt. Dale V. Query, the training officer with 9th Engineer Support Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"Many Marines do not wear service uniforms often," said Query. "As a result, when it comes time to wear them, they tend to not remember the uniform regulations. This will allow Marines to show the pride they have for their uniforms by displaying their awards."

Marines take a great deal of pride in all they do, and there should be no difference when it comes to wearing their uniforms.

"We are Marines, and we take pride in our uniforms," said 1st Sgt. Jacob J. Whitley, the company first sergeant for Company B, Headquarters and Service Battalion, MCB Camp Butler, MCIPAC. "I am a fan of the policy. I think it is a good way to get Marines into the garrison mindset after we have been in a combat mindset for so long."

Although Marines will be wearing service uniforms on Fridays, it will not affect operations, training events, or any Marines' execution of their normal duties.

"There is no reason why this should affect any unit's mission," said Kimble. "For example, if a Marine works as a mechanic, that Marine would simply come to work in the service uniform and get looked at by the leadership (before) changing into the uniform they would normally wear to execute their duties. However, if a Marine was working on administrative paperwork or annual training, they would be in the service uniform."

The Marine Corps has undergone many changes throughout its history, but one thing stays the same; Marines will adapt and overcome any change as they have always done, according to Kimble.

3rd MLG reflects on history, logistics of

Story and photos by
Pfc. Kasey Peacock

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Heroes are everyday individuals who are called upon because they have the innate ability to conquer insurmountable challenges. The Iwo Jima battle grounds where Japanese and American heroes fought valiantly were visited by 68 Marines and sailors for a professional military education tour Dec. 19 to reflect on their shared past and lessons learned.

Service members with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force, had the opportunity to reflect on the battle and observe significant artifacts, such as pill boxes and bunkers.

They also hiked to the top of Mount Suribachi, a place immortalized by the 1945 Pulitzer Prize-winning photo of five Marines and a Navy Corpsman raising the American flag over the highest point of the island.

The Japanese government reverted the name of the island on which the battle was fought to its pre-World War II name of Iwo To in 2007.

The service members met for a briefing Dec. 17 at Camp Kinser prior to the visit to Iwo To to discuss the history and how logistics played a key role in the battle.

"We held the classroom brief to get a better understanding of the battle before we stepped foot

on the island," said Gunnery Sgt. Christopher D. Battle, the information management office chief with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd MLG. "It helped us gain a deeper meaning of what the Marines went through during the battle."

Many service members left various items at small memorials at the top of Mount Suribachi, including dog tags and rank insignias, to show their respect for those who gave their lives.

"I saw a lot of Marines staring off into the horizon in silence," said Battle. "I think being at the top of the mountain reminded the Marines of our history. (Those) who left things left a part of themselves for those Marines who sacrificed it all during the battle."

While on the beach, Marines discussed the initial assault and reflected on those who fought gallantly.

Service members could be heard reminding each other that they may not get this opportunity again during the long walks up the mountain and along the beaches.

"Throughout the day, I overheard Marines talking about how much they appreciated the opportunity to be here and reflect on the history," said Col. Walter T. Anderson, the assistant chief of staff, G-3, operations and training, 3rd MLG. "For the majority of the Marines, it was their first time coming out here, and we wanted to focus not only on the battle itself, but on the logistics of the battle. The Marines who fought were all sustained and

supported by logistics, and it is important for 3rd MLG Marines to be aware of that."

The battle of Iwo Jima resulted in more than 26,000 American casualties, including 6,800 dead. Of the 20,000 Japanese defenders, only 1,083 survived, according to the Navy Department Library.

Given Okinawa's close proximity, the opportunity to visit Iwo To is much more feasible for Marines and sailors stationed in Okinawa than their counterparts in the U.S.

"I think it is very special that we get to be here because not a lot

of people get that chance," said Lance Cpl. Caitlin M. Carmella, a chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear defense specialist with 3rd MLG. "This is part of our history as Marines, and being on Okinawa is a great opportunity for us to get to visit the island."



An old Japanese weapon lies rusted on the island of Iwo To, nearly 67 years after the Battle of Iwo Jima. Sixty-eight Marines and sailors with 3rd Marine Logistics Group visited the island for a professional military education tour. The service members had the opportunity to reflect on the lives lost during the battle and observe significant features on the island including caves, pill boxes and bunkers. 3rd MLG is a part of III Marine Expeditionary Force.



Marines and sailors hike to Mount Suribachi on Iwo To Dec. 19 during a professional military education tour. "For the majority of the Marines, it was their first time coming out here, and we wanted to focus not only on the battle itself, but on the logistics of the battle. The Japanese government reverted the name of the island on which the battle was fought to its pre-World War II name of Iwo To in 2007."

During battle site visit



Marines and sailors gather on the beaches of Iwo To Dec. 19 during a professional military education tour. While on the beach, Marines were reminded of the initial assault that took place and reflected on those who fought gallantly.



Maj. Patrick Nelson places his rank insignia at the top of Mount Suribachi on Iwo To Dec. 19 during a professional military education tour. Marines and sailors with 3rd Marine Logistics Group visited the island to pay their respects to those who sacrificed their lives during the battle of Iwo Jima. Nelson is an operations officer with S-3, operations and training, Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd MLG, III MEF.



military education tour. "I overheard Marines talking about how much they appreciate the opportunity to be here and reflect on the history," said Col. Walter T. Anderson. ted to focus not only on the battle itself, but the logistics of the battle." The Marines and sailors are with 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. The fought to its pre-World War II name of Iwo To in 2007. Anderson is the assistant chief of staff, G-3, operations and training, 3rd MLG, III MEF.

Commissaries offer taste of home while overseas

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth A. Case
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The food and groceries commonly found in Japan and the United States vary greatly and represent a cultural difference. While some service members and their families here on Okinawa prefer to shop in the local community, others prefer the familiarity of U.S.-style food and grocery shopping. The Defense Commissary Agency offers American-style grocery stores with both host nation and American-style food and groceries. These stores are available to service members and anyone possessing a valid overseas Department of Defense identification card.

“The commissaries are (on base), so

I don’t have to go out in town,” said Cpl. Choua P. Vang, a data network specialist for Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. “It is great because it gives you a feeling of home. We have stores like Walmart back home, and this is the closest thing we have to a grocery store like those.”

The commissary serves its customers on base by providing a wide variety of food at affordable prices. “It’s a lot cheaper to shop at the commissary,” said Vang. “For folks who get commuted rations instead of a meal card, it is much better for them financially. They are not going to spend as much money eating fast-food because they can make their own food.” Customers save more than 30 percent by shopping at the commissary, according to John Zaher, the store director of the Camp Foster commissary. The savings

are even more in overseas locations such as Okinawa, where prices outside the gate are usually higher. Commissaries sell items at prices set just high enough to recover item cost, with no profit or extra cost added to the price. Along with providing food to service members in Okinawa, the commissaries also stay involved within the base communities. The commissaries support the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa, Naval Hospital Health Promotions, and Marine Corps Community Services Wellness Offices by providing nutritional education and health information. The commissaries are also involved in a variety of USO and Single Marine Program events. “We work regularly with military service organizations to make living on

Okinawa a great overseas experience,” said Zaher. “Twice a year, we sponsor a recreational event with the Single Marine Program to help young military members learn about their com-

missary and thank them for their service. We have a lot of fun at these events, and the commissary vendors provide all the food and prizes for the games.” Through its variety of food, savings and community services, the commissaries provide an improved quality of life to service members and their families living in Okinawa. “The commissary locations and their convenient hours make it easy for service members and their families to shop here,” said Zaher. “The commissary stocks products from the U.S. not available in off base stores. The convenience and familiarity of these products from home can be a great comfort to a family living overseas.”

“The convenience and familiarity of these products from home can be a great comfort to a family living overseas.”

John Zaher



Amber Korpalski selects vegetables from the produce section in the Camp Foster commissary Jan. 8. “The commissary stocks products from the U.S. not available in off base stores. The convenience and familiarity of these products from home can be a great comfort to a family living overseas,” according to John Zaher, the store director of the Camp Foster commissary. Korpalski is a military family member. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case



Marines conduct hasty rappel training at the Jungle Warfare Training Center on Camp Gonsalves Jan. 8. The training conducted increases proficiency in the jungle environment and enhances mission readiness. The hasty rappelling class is one of many conducted during the nine-day course which runs Jan. 7-15. The Marines are with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program. Photo by Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle

Infantry battalion shifts focus to jungle training

Lance Cpl. Daniel E. Valle
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

While the gray clouds loomed overhead, a steady rain began to slicken the slope of the Jungle Warfare Training Center’s hasty rappel site, providing an excellent training opportunity. Marines with 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, which is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, conducted hasty rappel training at JWTC on Camp Gonsalves Jan. 8 as part of a nine-day course Jan. 7-15. “This training is for us to work on our jungle tactics and our patrolling,” said 1st Lt. Jefferson M. Dowdy, a platoon commander with the battalion. “It gets us accustomed to working in this type of environment and out of our comfort zone. The training also helps us maintain mission readiness.”

Although the Marines are normally stationed in Hawaii, they only receive this type of training at a basic level, according to Dowdy. “We do a pretty good deal of this training being stationed on Hawaii,” said Dowdy. “We go out in the jungle there and brush-up on the basic skills, but nothing like the level of training we are receiving here.” The JWTC is the only jungle warfare training facility in the Department of Defense. It offers an unparalleled training experience for any Marine operating in the Asia-Pacific region. “It benefits the Marines due to the fact that we are going back to what the Marine Corps has done before the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan by training for every environment,” said Sgt. Garrett A. Sanders, the chief instructor at JWTC. “We are going back to jungle tactics and training. It gives them the skills to navigate in this type of terrain, which is important in (the Asia-Pacific region).” Throughout the course, the Marines receive classes on techniques that help them in the jungle, such as fast-roping, hasty rappelling, crossing valleys via rope bridges, land navigation, and casualty evacuations. “I think the overall training experience out here is good for all of us,” said Sgt. Nathaniel G. McGinness, a squad leader with the battalion. “We are learning techniques to ensure we are effective in this terrain.” The Marines have been able to take what they have learned during their classes and apply it to various practical application scenarios, according to Sanders. “Not only has it built their confidence, but it shows them exactly what they need to do to operate (in an environment they haven’t trained in),” said Sanders.

Kickboxing brings local academy, Marines together

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Under the bright lights of the ring, two men prepare for an intense competition. After the bell rings, a test of strength and willpower between fighters begins.

Students from the Ryukyu Rehabilitation Academy and two Marines from Camp Hansen participated in a kickboxing competition Dec. 16 at Music Town Otoichiba in Okinawa City, Okinawa.

For the Marines, the competition was the culmination of three months of kickboxing training.

"We had excellent support from the Marines' command during these three months," said Mark Carr, the kickboxing coach for the Marines. "There was also support from the (academy) and they allowed

their students to practice with us."

The academy specializes in teaching occupational, judo and physical therapy, which allows fighters and other athletes to train longer and harder.

Several academy students spent the entire three-month period training and working with the Marines, according to Shigeo Machida, a second-year student at the academy.

The students learned different therapy techniques from the academy's instructors and were able to practice during their training which can take a toll on the human body, according to Cpl. Anthony L. Dale, an intelligence specialist with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.

"The students looked at how we moved and trained



Cpl. Anthony L. Dale, right, delivers a right hook to his opponent during a kickboxing match Dec. 16 at Music Town Otoichiba in Okinawa City. The match was the culmination of a three-month training effort between the Ryukyu Rehabilitation Academy and Marines from Camp Hansen. Dale is an intelligence specialist with 3rd Intelligence Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

and devised methods to help us," said Dale. "If we were injured at any time, the students at the academy would help us recover as fast as possible. We have a really good relationship with them."

The Marines and students worked to fit the

entire syllabus into the training period and were aided toward this goal by the therapy skills of the academy's students.

"We had to train every day," said Carr. "The training regimen, with its built in recovery days and help from the students, allowed

the Marines to be ready for the competition."

Training for the competition allowed for progress to be shown and measured.

"The school is willing to cooperate in more projects," said Tomohide Taira, the vice principal of the academy. "This project and event is special, and we hope for more interactions like this in the future."

Each event helped build upon the relationship between the groups.

"The program did exactly what it was supposed to do in building a relationship between the academy and the Marines," said Carr. "After this, we hope to develop more opportunities for cooperation."

The outcome for the Marines was one draw and one win, demonstrating the teamwork by the Marines and their student trainers.

JGSDF, Marines celebrate New Year with Mochitsuki

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

The sound of beating mallets added to the festive atmosphere as participants of the Takagahara Garrison's mochitsuki ceremony, or "rice pounding" event, beat rice into a paste-like mixture called "mochi."

Leaders from surrounding communities, Japan Ground Self-Defense Force members and their families gathered with approximately 40 Marines from Headquarters Battalion, Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji, Dec. 21 at the Takagahara Garrison for the annual event to celebrate the approaching new year.

The Mochitsuki ceremony is a traditional event that involves the use of a heavy mallet and mortar to make mochi by pounding the rice. Mochi is then used as a food product, both sweetened and unsweetened.

"The Japanese celebrate the coming new year by eating mochi during this season," said Sgt. Maj. Rodolfo G. Sarino, the sergeant major of CATC Camp Fuji. "The Takagahara Garrison invited the Marines to experience their culture."

Sharing cultural activities allows for a greater understanding between the Marines and their Japanese hosts at a more personal level.

"I think (the event) is good because it exposes Marines to the Japanese culture, especially for new Marines that recently arrived to Japan," said Sarino. "It is good to have these events in order to build and maintain Camp Fuji's relationship with our community and help the Japan-U.S. partnership."

The JGSDF members and Marines worked through a language barrier to make the event a success.

"My favorite part is that I can see both Japanese garrison members and (Camp) Fuji Marines having fun together through these events," said Misuzu Sugiyama, the secretary for the commanding officer of Camp Fuji. "I feel happy to see the Marines have fun with garrison members in spite of the language difficulty. I believe the people-to-people ties and face-to-face communication are very important for keeping the bonds strong."

The effort put forth by the Camp Fuji Marines helped solidify their standing as productive members of the local community.

"It shows the Japanese community that we are not here just to train, but we are also here to participate in the community," said Sgt. Fabian Salazar, a ground radio repairer with Camp Fuji. "The ultimate goal



Pfc. Aaron J. Padilla uses a mallet to make mochi Dec. 21 during the Takagahara Garrison's mochitsuki ceremony. The event allowed Marines to build relationships with the local community and the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force. Padilla is an engineer equipment operator with Combined Arms Training Center Camp Fuji's Headquarters Battalion. U.S. Marine Corps courtesy photo

is to build strong relationships with the Japanese and to ensure the continuing friendship between our great nations."

The relationship between the JGSDF and Marines is passed down to the next group of leaders by events such as the mochitsuki ceremony, where service members first meet their counterparts.

"I attend all JGSDF events that I am invited to, over 12 per year, to build and maintain good relationships with the JGSDF and civic leaders," said Sarino. "I integrate the Marines in these events as much as possible to give them an appreciation for the Japanese culture."

The old relationships that were built upon, and the new relationships that were formed, will pay dividends during future operations.

"It is important to show our host nation that we are still working hard to build strong relations," said Salazar. "There was sense of awe from the Marines who had never been to a mochi festival. The Japanese citizens and JGSDF were also eager to share their culture with a group of Marines who were more than willing to learn about them."

Marine's skills earn honors on court

Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

With time running out, a player makes a desperate shot. The buzzer sounds as the ball passes through the net, creating a swish-like sound. The feeling of making a game-winning shot is one many players dream about but rarely experience. For one Marine, however, this dream has become a reality.

Cpl. Richard A. Pollock II, a field radio operator with Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, was selected to the all-Marine men's basketball team at a trial camp that took place Oct. 21 through Nov. 3 at Camp Pendleton.

"Several people attended the tryout, but only 12 were selected," said Pollock. "It was an intense competition in everything we did, whether it was running drills or playing for practice."

Pollock is the type of Marine that when he sets his mind on something, he will do whatever it takes to achieve it, according to Master Gunnery Sgt. Eric A. Ingerson, the operations

chief for CAB.

"His level of dedication is remarkable," said Ingerson. "All his hard work and dedication to achieve what he has, he did on his own."

After making the all-Marine men's basketball team, Pollock was later selected for the all-armed forces basketball team.

"You do not try out for the all-armed forces basketball team," said Pollock. "After you make the all-Marine team, you play in a tournament in Lackland, Texas. During the tournament, you play against the other branches' teams."

"It is a very competitive tournament, and there are many good players. If you play well in the tournament, then you will be identified as a standout player and you will be selected to the all-armed forces basketball team."

Pollock was the only Marine selected to play on the all-armed forces basketball team.

"It was quite an honor to be considered one of the top 12 basketball players in the military," said Pollock.

Pollock has been playing basketball for most of his life.

"I have been playing basketball since I was a child," said Pollock. "I played in high school at Benson High School in Omaha, Neb., and I played in college at Bellevue University. After that, I played semiprofessionally in the American Basketball Association for a season with the Westchester Phantoms."

One benefit of playing basketball is the camaraderie and those who have been a part of organized athletics understand the close relationship formed with teammates and coaches.

"Pollock's determination and drive is what made him an outstanding player," said Staff Sgt. Jelani A. Nix, one of Pollock's coaches. "You could always tell he gave 110 percent at everything he did by his hard work and effort."

Pollock takes every opportunity he gets to enjoy playing basketball because he considers it more than just a sport.

"If you are good at basketball, then it is not just a hobby anymore," said Pollock. "It's a way of life. You play basketball at every opportunity you have, and I will continue to play as long as possible."



Cpl. Richard A. Pollock II jumps to dunk the basketball during a game against the all-Air Force basketball team. Pollock was selected to the all-Marine men's basketball team in November and later was the only Marine selected to the all-armed forces basketball team. "It was quite an honor to be considered one of the top 12 basketball players in the military," said Pollock. Courtesy photo

Marines, MLCs, civilians raise morale, deliver mail

Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Marines, master labor contract employees and civilians worked long hours to facilitate a happy holiday season for the military community on Okinawa.

The employees with III Marine Expeditionary Force and Marine Corps Installations Pacific post offices delivered a high volume of mail that included both gifts arriving on island from state-side loved ones, and gifts from Okinawa being sent back home and abroad.

"It was tiring, but it was worth it," said Lance Cpl. Felicia N. Barrow, a postal clerk with Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC.

The sheer volume of incoming and outgoing mail was a formidable challenge.

According to postal operations officials, from January through November 2012, the Marine Corps' postal operations on Okinawa, to include Torii Station, received an average of more than 500,000 pounds of mail monthly. In December, that number nearly doubled to close to 900,000 pounds, not including outgoing mail.

Staying in front of the heavy holiday workload required extra work at the post offices.

Helping those stationed on Okinawa take part in holiday traditions lifted the spirits of the postal workers.



Lance Cpl. Shada F. Middleton, left, delivers a package to Jocelyn B. South at the post office on Camp Foster Jan. 8. Middleton is a postal clerk with Company A, Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. South is a military family member. Photo by Lance Cpl. David N. Hersey

"Overall, the morale of the post office is high when they can deliver a much-anticipated package or letter from home," said Gunnery Sgt. Ashild J. Ruiz, a postal finance officer for MCB Butler. "When a customer tells them thank you, it makes a world of difference to these young Marines who are so far away from home and, at times, deliver a package but have not received one themselves."

The positive effect that packages from home have on the morale of those stationed on Okinawa can not be overstated.

"(The packages) help us have a small

piece of home with us even while we are so far away," said Sgt. Daniel Sotonieves, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III MEF. "Plus, we have a chance to share the culture we are living in with our loved ones back home (when we send them gifts and mail)."

Beyond the simple "thanks," the emotion of those receiving packages from loved ones stateside is a reward for the postal Marines.

"(Mail recipients) are always ecstatic when they finally receive the package they've been waiting for. It's like the little kid inside them comes out," said Marcelino S. Hernandez, a mail clerk with Headquarters and Service Battalion, Marine Corps Base Camp Butler, MCIPAC. "It is especially important here on Okinawa. Quite often, it is the Marine's first time away from home. They can email and call their family if they are feeling homesick, but receiving a package makes all the difference in the world."

Even with the extra work, the Marines, MLCs, and civilians were in high spirits as they went about their work, ensuring everyone who had mail would receive it.

"Mail lets them know that people back home are still thinking about them and offering their support," said Barrow.

In Theaters Now

JANUARY 11-17

FOSTER

TODAY Parental Guidance (PG), 6 p.m.; The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 9 p.m.

SATURDAY The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), noon, 4 and 8 p.m.

SUNDAY The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), noon and 4 p.m.; This is 40 (R), 8 p.m.

MONDAY Alex Cross (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY The Hobbit: An Unexpected Journey (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY This is 40 (R), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY Alex Cross (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Parental Guidance (PG), noon, 3 and 6 p.m.; Alex Cross (PG13), 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Parental Guidance (PG), 1 and 4 p.m.; Alex Cross (PG13), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Parental Guidance (PG), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAY Parental Guidance (PG), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Alex Cross (PG13), 7 p.m.

COURTNEY

TODAY This is 40 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Fun Size (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.

SUNDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 2 and 6 p.m.

MONDAY Alex Cross (PG13), 7 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Alex Cross (PG13), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Paranormal Activity 4 (R), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY This is 40 (R), 4 and 7 p.m.

SUNDAY Fun Size (PG13), 4 p.m.; Paranormal Activity 4 (R), 7 p.m.

MONDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Closed

THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Alex Cross (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SATURDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1 (PG13), 3 p.m.; The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SUNDAY The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 2 (PG13), 3 p.m.; Alex Cross (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed

WEDNESDAY Wreck-It Ralph (PG), 3 p.m.; The Dark Knight Rises (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

THURSDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SATURDAY Paranormal Activity 4 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Fun Size (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Alex Cross (PG13), 9 p.m.; End of Watch (R), 10 p.m.

SATURDAY Jack Reacher (PG13), 6 and 9 p.m.

SUNDAY Alex Cross (PG13), 2 p.m.; House at the End of the Street (R), 5:30 p.m.

MONDAY This is 40 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

TUESDAY This is 40 (R), 6 and 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY End of Watch (R), 7 p.m.

THURSDAY Parental Guidance (PG), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465

KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869

(USO NIGHT) 632-8781

MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890

(USO NIGHT) 636-2113

CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616

CAMP HANSEN 623-4564

(USO NIGHT) 623-5011

CAMP KINSER 637-2177

CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333

(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing, visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

OKINAWA WORLD - JAN. 19

• The SMP is offering a daylong adventure to Okinawa World. With a total length of 3.2 miles, Gyokusendo Cave is the longest of the many caves on southern Okinawa and Japan's second longest. Sign-up deadline is Jan. 16. Bus will leave Camp Foster Field House at 11 a.m. and Camp Courtney at 11:20 a.m.

SHURI CASTLE / KOKUSAI STREET - JAN. 20

• Join the SMP on a tour of Shuri Castle, then enjoy shopping at Kokusai Street. Bus will leave Camp Schwab at 10 a.m., Camp Hansen at 10:30 a.m. and Camp Courtney at 11:10 a.m. Sign-up deadline is Jan. 16.

Mention of any company in this notice does not constitute endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

"With an MOS number of 0326, these have their jump wings and diver's bubble. What are they?"

See answer in next week's issue.

日本語

Japanese phrase of the week:

"Hajime mashite."

(pronounced: hah-gee-meh mash-ee-teh)

It means, "Nice to meet you." (first time meeting only)

CHAPLAINS' CORNER

"We tend to look at the world through the distorted lens of our own ego and desires."



Break through, expand horizons of life

Lt. Robert Gelinas

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP S.D. BUTLER, STAFF CHAPLAIN

Iris Murdoch was an Irish novelist who believed that by nature, we tend to look at the world through the distorted lens of our own ego and desires.

"The best moments in life," she said, "are those times when we confront something that shakes us so much that we are able to see the world as it is instead of how we want to see it." She offered three examples:

First, learn a foreign language. Notice how a foreign language is not there to make things easy for you, and it will not adjust itself to accommodate your needs and desires. When you study a foreign language, you are forced into a great sense of humility.

Her second example is when you confront a great work of art. We often interact with art whose purpose is to entertain us such as sitcoms or movies. However,

when compared to something like the Sistine Chapel; you're not so much entertained by the Sistine Chapel as you are overwhelmed by it. Great art grabs you by the lapels and shakes you.

Her third example is when someone demands your compassion. Imagine it's Saturday, and you are going through your to-do list and you see someone in need. Maybe someone has been hurt. Maybe it is a lost child. But this shakes you so much that you know you have to drop your plans and respond, not because it is good for you, advances your career, or makes you look better, but because that person has broken into your world.

Living in Okinawa offers us many chances to take a step back from our normal routine and lend a hand, learn a few Japanese phrases, or engage in a different culture. This week, this new year in fact, challenge yourself to look for those moments to break through and truly expand the horizons of your life.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT WWW.MARINES.MIL/UNIT/MCBJAPAN/PAGES/AROUNDMCBJ/CHAPEL.ASPX